



**U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers**
Honolulu District

Public Notice

Public Notice No.
200400148

Date:
March 26, 2004

Reply to:
District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Building 230
Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858-5440

Respond by:
April 27, 2004

**APPLICATION FOR DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT
WAIKIKI BEACH SMALL-SCALE SAND PUMPING PROJECT, OAHU
FILE NUMBER 200400148**

1. **Applicant:** State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) ,
P.O. Box 621, Honolulu, HI 96809
2. **Applicable Statutory Authorities:** Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors
Act (33 U.S.C. 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).
3. **Location of the Proposed Activity:** Area known as Waikiki Beach,
specifically the Diamond Head and Ewa swimming basins identified as Sites 1
and 2 and the area fronting the Duke Kahanomoku statue to the Sheraton Moana
Surfrider Hotel identified as Site 3, Waikiki, Oahu (Figure 1).
4. **Project Purpose and Description:**

The entire Waikiki embayment has experienced chronic erosion for decades with periodic nourishment efforts carried out to replace lost sand. Although past beach nourishment efforts have been carried out regularly, little has been done to maintain the beach since the last major nourishment effort in 1975.

The proposed project includes pumping sand from sites located offshore within ½ mile of the shoreline (Figure 2). Extraction and delivery will involve the use of a submersible pump with a piping system delivering sand slurry to sand retention basins established on the beach. Sand will be placed higher on the existing beach profile to achieve an elevated dry beach (Figure 3).

The proposed project will provide a temporary mitigation measure for the chronic erosion problems along the Waikiki Beach area. In addition, a useable beach area for this important tourist area will be created and lateral access along the beach for the general public will be improved. Life expectancy of the placed sand is approximately 2-4 years.

Furthermore, the extraction of sand from channels and pockets within the near shore reef will provide an opportunity for DLNR to evaluate the environmental impact of sand saturation on the reef habitat from past replenishment efforts.

5. **Impacts of Proposed Activities if Authorized:**

Potential adverse environmental effects include temporary turbidity due to the pumping and placement of sand. Potential displacement or burial of benthic organisms exists as well as the destruction of benthic habitat in the offshore sand fields. No benthic or other communities have been identified in the sand nourishment area.

There will be impacts to recreational users of the beach and offshore areas. Surf instruction classes held in the immediate area of the sand pumping and discharge area will be temporarily detoured around this area.

Other anticipated impacts include air, noise and water quality during the construction period. Suspended sediment levels may be temporarily elevated during placement of the sand, however an approved Best Management Practices Plan and a water quality monitoring plan by the Department of Health, Clean Water Branch will be required prior to any construction in the water.

6. **Impact on Historic Properties:**

State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) issued a “no effect” determination on August 10, 1998 for the Kuhio Beach Park Expansion and Kalakaua Promenade. A letter dated January 28, 2000 was issued with a “no effect” determination for the Kuhio Beach Sand Mining Project. Both projects are located in the proposed project area.

This notice was sent to the State Historic Preservation Office, Native Hawaiian groups identified by the Historic Preservation Officer, Hui Malama I Na Kupuna ‘O Hawaii Nei and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. Any comments they have on cultural and historic resources will be considered before a final decision is made on the permit.

7. **Impact on Endangered Species:**

Green sea turtles, a federally listed threatened species, may forage within the project area. No significant adverse impacts to federally listed species are expected from the proposed project.

This notice has been sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Service. Any comments they have on endangered or threatened species, or their critical habitat, will be considered before a final decision is made on the permit.

8. **Essential Fish Habitat (EFH):**

The sand being placed for beach nourishment will cover a portion of the marine habitat near the shoreline. A portion of the algae and invertebrates that exist in the shoreline area may be lost. However, most of these species are well adapted to survive burial, and are expected to re-colonize. The increased beach area will also provide greater habitat for sand dwelling species. No significant adverse impacts are expected from the proposed project.

This notice has been sent to the National Marine Fisheries Service for their comments on EFH Conservation recommendations pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act.

9. **Other Government Authorizations/Certifications:**

Prior to issuance of the DA permit, the applicant is required to obtain a Section 401 Water Quality Certification, or waiver thereof, from the State Department of Health, Clean Water Branch and a Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program consistency determination, or waiver from the Office of Planning before the DA permit is valid. The requirements for a CZM consistency statement and accompanying information are available for public review at the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism, Office of Planning, CZM Program Office, 235 S. Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813. Comments on the consistency statement should be submitted in writing to the CZM Program Office at the above address no later than 30 days from the date of this notice.

This notice was sent to the State Department of Health and the State DBEDT Office of Planning, Coastal Zone Management Program.

10. **Evaluation Factors:**

The decision whether or not to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof: among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

11. **Comments and Inquiries:**

Interested parties may submit in writing any comments that they have on issuance of a permit for the proposed activity. Comments should be sent to the address on the letterhead no later than 30 days from the date of this notice and should refer to permit 200400148. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps in the decision to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for the proposed activity. Further information may be obtained from Ms. Lolly Silva, Project Manager, Regulatory Branch, Honolulu Engineer District, Building 230, Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858-5440, telephone (808) 438-7023 or by email at laurene.silva@usace.army.mil.

12. **Request for Public Hearing:**

Any person may request in writing within 30 days from the date of this notice that a public hearing be held to consider issuance of a permit for the proposed project. Requests for public hearing must specifically state the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Attachments:

Figure 1 - Waikiki Beach Sand Extraction and Fill Locations

Figure 2 - Offshore Sand Source (Sediment Thickness, Volume & Location)

Figure 3 - Design Profile and Fill Template

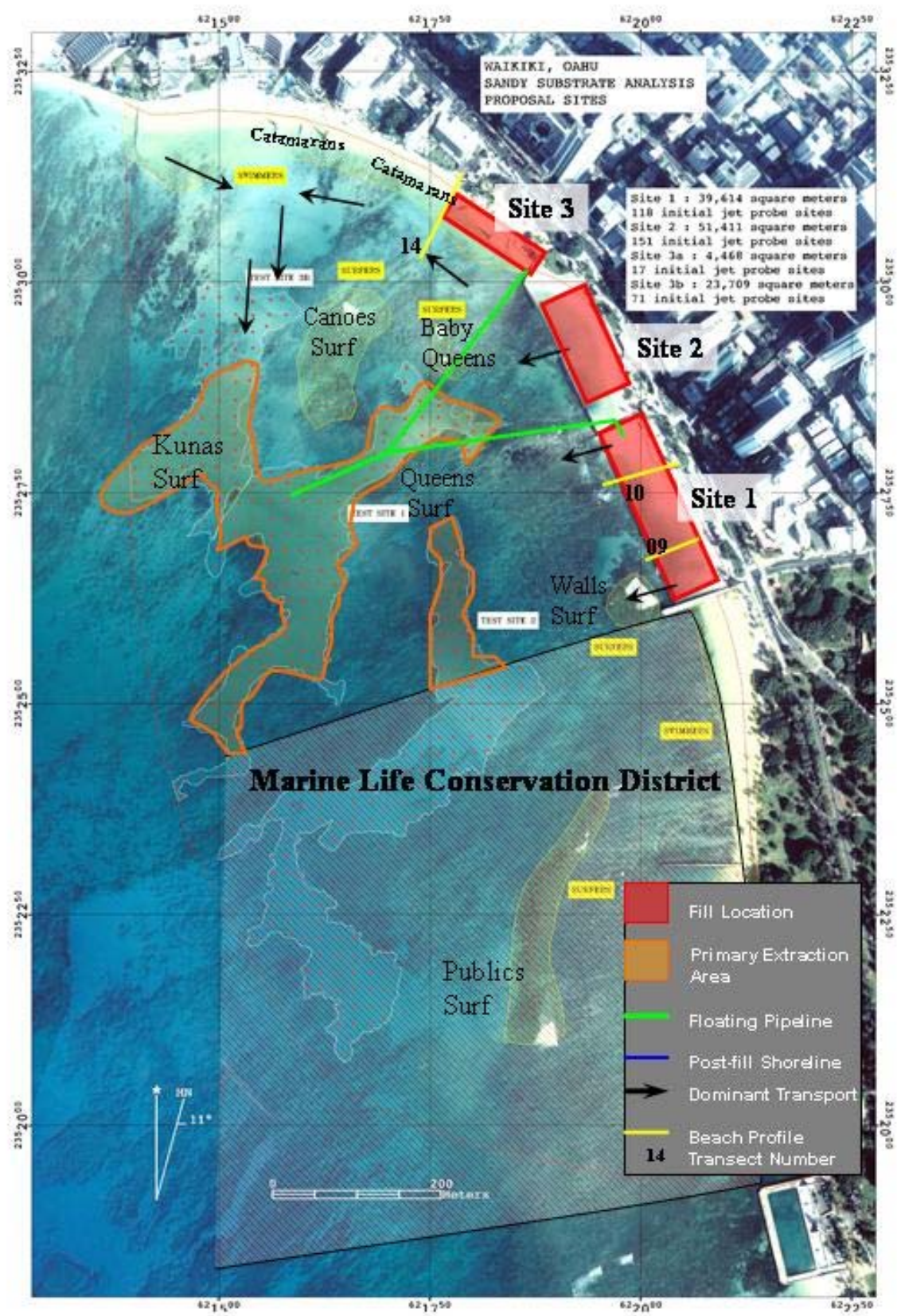


Figure 1. Waikiki Beach Sand Extraction and Fill Locations

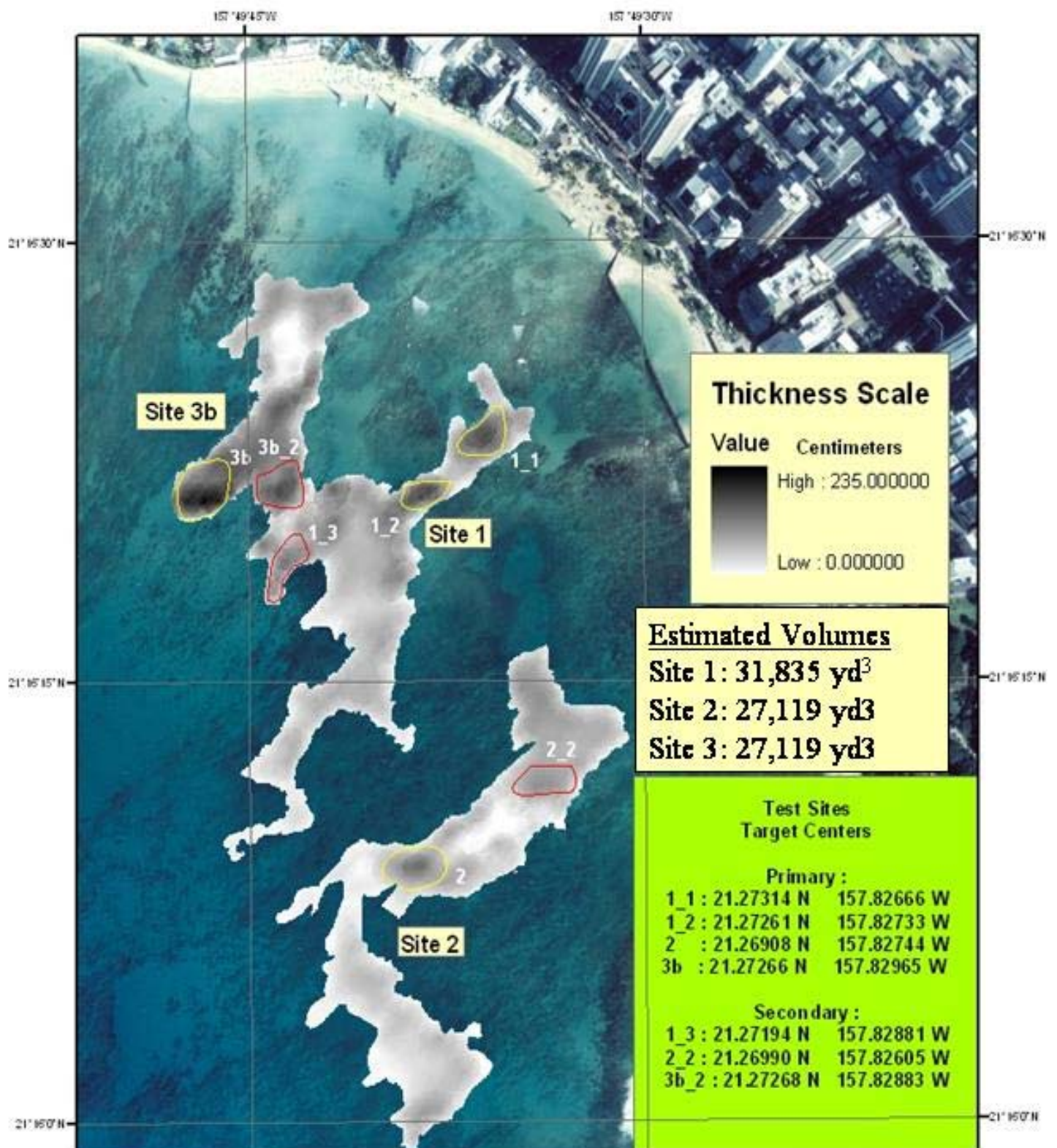
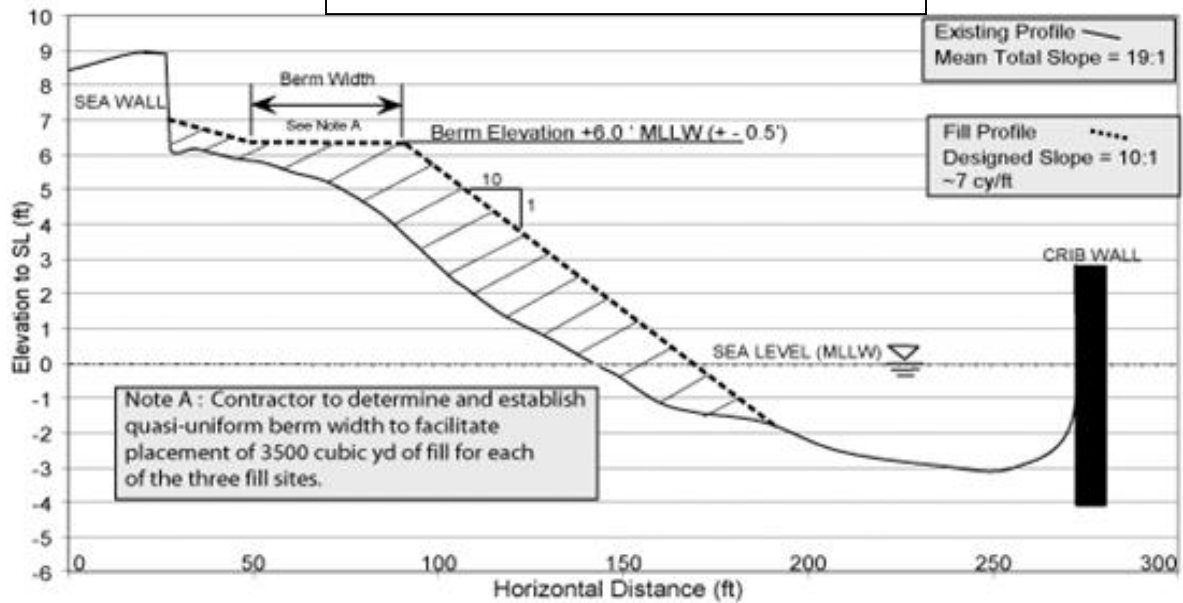


Figure 2. Sediment Thickness, Volume & Location

Design Fill Profile Waikiki Beach



Plan View and Typical Fill Template

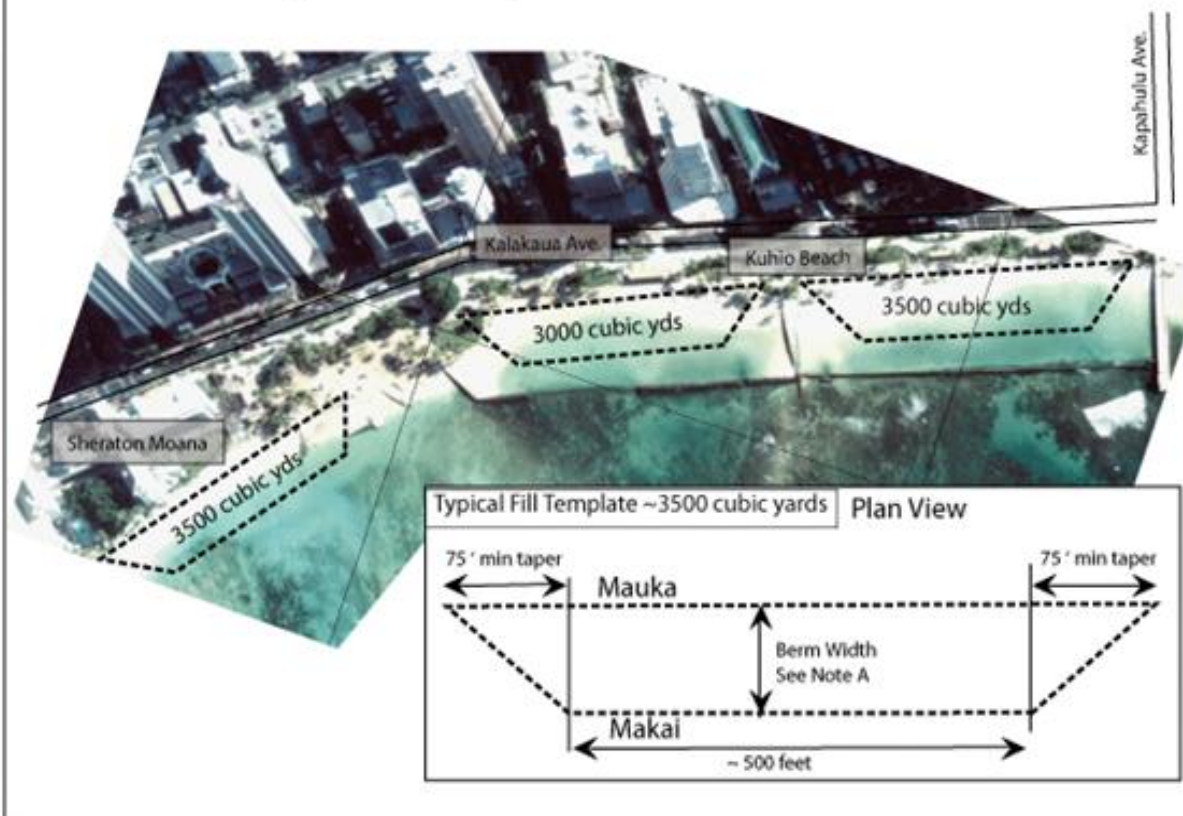


Figure 3. Design Profile and Fill Template